

Serial No. 10/720,858
Belkin et al.
Case No. CE10866R

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectively requested in view of the above amendments and these remarks. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-14, 16 and 18-24 are currently pending.

According to the Office Action, claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,845,152 to Taff et al. Applicants have carefully reviewed the cited reference and the comments stated in the Office Action. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 16 to further define the respectfully traverses the rejection. With respect to independent claims 1, 6, and 10, the claims have been amended to incorporate the limitations found in claim 3. For these claims, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for preventing circular call forwarding loops for communication units capable of operating in a first network and a loosely coupled second network. The communication unit has a first network number for operating in the first network and a second network number for operating in the second network. Voice mail is also provided for the first network. When a call is received for the first network number, a first loop indicia is added to caller identification data of the call. Accordingly, the call has at least two identifications, i.e. the caller identification data and the first loop indicia. The identification data is stored when it is determined that the communication unit is no longer in the first network, and the call is forwarded to the second network. When another call is received having second identification data after the first call is forwarded to the second network, other loop indicia for the second call is checked. Then, the other loop indicia is compared to the first loop indicia and the first identification data is compared to the second identification data. The another call is forwarded to the first network voice mail when comparing the loop indicia and the identification data indicate a call forwarding loop.

Applicants respectfully submit that Taff does not disclose that both the first call and the another call have two identification features, i.e. the first identification data and loop indicia. Taff discusses that the calls are associated with an identification being the phone number from the device that is making the call. Taff discloses that the comparison can be to just parts of that phone number from the device that is making the call, but this

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does not provide two identification features for both the original call and the second call. Taff also discloses an unavailable destination number which is used when the second call is not being answered. This unavailable destination number is equivalent to the voice mail and voice mail number of the present invention. In fact, Taff teaches away from the two indicia when it says that the information from the calling party may not be reliable. See column 4, lines 17-30. The two indicia of the present invention improves reliability.

Turning to claim 9, the present invention includes "instructing the communications unit to manipulate forwarding information. According to the claim, the instructing to manipulate is performed by a network switch. This is different from what is disclosed by Taff where the unavailable destination number is provisioned by the subscriber. In Taff, there is no instructing and no instructing by a network switch.

With respect to independent claim 16, Applicants have amended the claim to include the limitations of claim 17. In particular, claim 16 is directed to a method of preventing circular call forwarding loops for a communications unit capable of operating in a first network and a second network within a loosely coupled network, and having a first network number for the first network, a second network number for the second network and a first network voice mail. In the first network, the communications unit is associated to calls with a call forwarding number for the second network by providing the call forwarding number to the communications unit via the first network while the communications unit is operating in the first network. Thus, the call forwarding number is provided to the communications unit before it moves from the first network to the second network. The sections of Taff cited in the Office Action do not disclose any information as to when a call forwarding number is associated with the communications unit. Taff does not disclose that the call forwarding number is associated while in the first network before the possibility of the call forwarding loop needs to be prevented.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is an apparatus claim that has an equivalent scope to claim 16. In particular claim 22 requires that the forwarding number be associated with the communications unit while the communications unit is in the first network, which is before the call forwarding loop needs to be prevented.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Taff does not disclose the method and apparatus found in independent claims 1, 6, 10, 16 and 22. It therefore

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respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6, 10, 16 and 22 are not anticipated by Taff. As claims 2 and 4-5 depend upon claim 1, claims 7-9 depend upon claim 6, claims 11-12 and 14 depend upon claim 10, claims 18-19 depend upon claim 16 and claims 22-24 depend upon claim 22 and these dependent claims include the limitations of the independent claims, it is also respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are not disclosed by and not anticipated by Taff for the same reasons. It is requested that the rejection under Section 102(e) be withdrawn.

As the Applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the Applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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